



# AN EXTENSIVE ROLE OF ANCIENT AND MODERN INDIAN TEACHER: CRITICAL STUDY BETTER THAN A THOUSAND DAYS OF DILIGENT STUDY IS ONE DAY WITH A GREAT TEACHER.” - JAPANESE PROVERB

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## ABSTRACT

A teacher is just like a rising Sun that always fulfills the empty and dark minds with the light of knowledge, learning, and education since the ancient time. It is impossible to assume complete and balance life without teacher in the life of anyone. On the one hand, the parents are considered the first teacher and on the other hand a teacher is considered to be the second parent. It is the teacher who understands the interest, learning, capacity and potential of the student.

A teacher provides suitable guidance to the student. A good teacher inspires the student. Only a teacher can change everything. Teacher is a role model of society. A teacher imports knowledge, human values, traditions, rituals, challenge of life. He resolves all kind of problems within the students. Teacher makes a child come out of the world of illusion. A teacher plays noteworthy role in preparing a child to move from the stage of innocence to the stage of experience. In ancient time, teacher - student relationship was based upon respect, honor, dedication, discipline and devotion. In our country teacher- taught relationship was tremendous. But after passing the time slowly and gradually student is not able to share that friendly relationship with teacher. Due to advent of modernity, role of teacher and modes of teaching has been totally changed. A teacher in the present scenario has to be friend of a student. Because of the longing of government for privatization of education and excessive emphasis on documentation, there is a lots of changing in the relation of teacher and taught. Now the teacher is feeling insecure for the future. In fact government is not ready to expand more than 01% of GDP for education which never should be less than 10% for fabric changing in education as per requirement of 21st century. It creates new kind of fear for teacher 's survival. In ancient time King himself supported with honor to the teacher by all means. Maharaj king Dashrath surrendered his own son Ram to his guru (teacher) Vishwamitra for his security and support. Today, the behavior of the students, public and government towards the teacher has to be totally changed. If India wants to restore those ancient glories, it is again required to provide security, respect, honor, love, devotion and dedication towards the teacher.

**KEYWORDS:** Ancient, Model, Teacher, Knowledge, Devotion, Dedication, Security, Support,

## INTRODUCTION

“Expanding like petals of young flowers  
 I watch the gentle opening of your minds.  
 And the sweet loosening of the spell that binds,  
 Your intellectual energies and powers,  
 That stretch (like young birds in soft summer hours)  
 Their wings, to try their strength,  
 O, how the winds  
 Of circumstances and freshening April showers  
 Of early knowledge and unnumbered kinds  
 Of new perceptions shed their influence;  
 And how you worship truth's omnipotence.  
 What joyance rains upon me, when I see  
 Fame in the mirror of futurity,  
 Weaving the chaplets you have yet to gain,  
 Ah then, I feel I have not lived in vain.”  
 -Henry Louis Vivian Derozio

Education is the only platform from where coming generations are trained for their bright future. Teacher is the soul of education. In the ancient time teachers played several roles. They used to inspire the students and assimilate their learning

and knowledge. Teachers were considered Gurus (especially in Gurukul system). The position of teacher in the society was tremendous and highly commendable in Vedic, Egyptian and Sumerian cultures. The ancient education emphasizes on ethics, humanity, discipline, morality, self - reliance and truthfulness. The teacher and the students had to pass whole day under the same roof. The basic role of teacher was to import all the knowledge that they learned themselves. In Vedic period, due to lack of books the teacher used to teach the lessons to the students by words of mouth. We have often told that teachers have made many contributions to the society. The epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have not only celebrated the teachers but also put them at the highest position, just like Ved Vyas, Vishwamitra, Dronacharya, Lord Mahavir and Patanjali all commemorated by everyone even today. These teachers, thinkers and philosophers in different time periods have propagated and shaped our ways of thinking. But in the modern education system teacher acts as a friend, parent, guide, facilitator and philosopher. The impact of teacher's behavior plays an important role on the overall personality and achievements of students. Now a days the students got indulged in various sorts of distractions for which they are too young to understand such as various social media

platforms, online classes, games and so on. They lost their concentration. They diverse for their study. After three years of pandemic (Corona) teachers have to adjust the students with offline (class room) reading and examination both. A teacher has to teach the students in the first place that education is the only source of light through which they can have a better understanding of the world around them and make their life happy and successful.

### **Ancient Education**

During ancient time the education rendered in the forest away from the maddening crowd of the cities to provide students a pleasant and silent environment for study. In these days two education systems were developed; Firstly Vedic and secondly Buddhist. The medium of teaching language, during the Vedic system was Sanskrit, and in the Buddhist system the language was Pali. Our ancient education started with the objective to develop physical, mental and spiritual capacity of the students. The main subjects for study were Vedas, Upanishads and Dharmshastras. The ancient education emphasized on ethics like discipline, humanity, self-reliance, truthfulness and respecting all creatures in the creation of God. The education was transmitted in gurukuls, ashrams, temples and houses.

### **The Purpose of Ancient Education**

The longing of the ancient education was to provide the students a quality education. The education focused on the enrichment of characters, personality, culture and cultivation of high ideals. The curriculum was also much dynamic. The fundamental aim of a good curriculum was for proper physical and mental development of the students. During the ancient period, the state government and the people did not interfere in designing curriculum, regulation of teaching hours and fee structure. There was strong and tremendous bond between teacher and student. Every student was allotted to one teacher. The kings of state and royal families used to donate sufficient fund for quality education. The syllabus was designed as per demands of the time. The students used to leave their houses. They had to live with their gurus until and unless their education was completed. Women education was also in priority during the early Vedic period. The courses duration was about 10 to 12 years. Due to lackness of books students used to memorize all things. The curriculum consists of four Vedas, six Vedangas, Upanishads, Darshanas, Puranas, Tarka Shashtras, subjects like algebra, geometry and grammar were also given more importance. Panini was much famous for grammar at that time. The curriculum of the Buddhist system consists of Sutras, Abhidhammas and Pitakas. The education was completely through orals and debates. The examination was conducted annually.

### **Methods of Learning in Ancient Time:**

In the ancient time, due to lack of the books, students had a habit to learn and memorize all the things which they had taught in the class. The teachers paid much attention for the student's academic level knowledge and learning. The methods of teaching was oral, debate and seminar. Listening and concentrated contemplation were new methods of learning. The students used to ask question about the subject or topics taught

by the teachers. The education of the ancient time was mainly emphasized on practical knowledge rather than theoretical knowledge. The system and curriculum of education focused on the overall development of the students. The students were struggling for knowledge rather than for scoring the marks or ranks. In those ancient days classrooms built in forests which were very appropriate for pleasant study environment to the students. Students were not bound to choose the major subjects like vocational, minor or major as it is in NEP 2020. The government did not interfere with the formation of curriculum and kings were always in security and support of the teacher for practical, creative and qualitative study.

### **Higher Education Institutions of Ancient Era**

#### **Nalanda University:**

Nalanda University was established by Shankraditya of Guptas dynasty in Bihar during early 5th century and flourished for 600 years till 12th century. It was devoted to Buddhist studies, but it also trained students in medium as fine arts, astronomy, mathematics, politics and the art of war. The centre had eight separate compounds, 10 temples, meditation halls, class rooms, lakes and parks. It had a nine-storey library. It also had dormitories for the students. It was perhaps first an educational institution; housing 10000 students in the university. There were 2000 professors. Nalanda University attracted students from Turkey, Persia, Indonesia, Tibet, China, Japan and Korea. Nalanda University is reestablished in 2010.

#### **Takshashila:**

Takshashila was the centre of religion, learning and teaching of Buddhism in ancient time. The great grammarian Panini, author of Astadhyayi and Chanakya both studied from Takshashila. Student from far and wide as from Kashi, Kosala, Magadha and several other countries were students of Taxila university. It was well known centre of learning. It has been declared as an archaeological site and world heritage by United Nations Educational, scientific and cultural Organization(UNESCO) in 1980. It is now one the most visited sites in Asia. Taxila was Buddhist center from 5th century BC to 6th century AD.

### **Renowned Teachers of Ancient Time**

India has several teacher since time immemorial who have shaped to steer the thoughts of the people of their times to great extents. Many such teachers were sages, thinkers and philosophers. Their preaching, teaching and ideas highly influenced the thought process of whole generations. Their pedagogues, curriculum and methodology are much more relevant even today. Such ancient proficient teachers are as under:

- **Ved Vyasa:** Ved Vyasa is Sanatan dharma's first (Aadi) archaya. In the beginning there was only one Veda. Vyas simplified and classified into four parts of Vedas- Rig veda, Sam veda, Yajur veda, Atharva Veda. Later on he composed 18 Mahapuranas. He also composed Mahabharata to convey the principle of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. His birthday celebrated as Guru Purnima to pay homage for the guru even today. Hindus considered Ved Vyasa- as immortal (Chiranjivi).
- **Maharshi Patanjali:** Patanjali was a great sage of ancient

India. He is the founder of yoga. He was an author, mystic and philosopher. Patanjali is regarded as incarnation of Adi Shesha. He authored the famous great book as yoga sutras and Mahabhashya. He also define early notion of Sphota. His writings also elaborate some early principles of morphology. He is well known author of a medical text namely Patanjali tantra.

- **Lord Mahavir:** Lord mahavira is also known as Vardhamana. He is considered as Jainism's 14th and last Tirthankara. He abandoned all worldly greed and lust at the age of thirty and left home to seek spirituality. He spent more than twelve years in meditation. He gained moksha (salvation) in the 6th century BCE. His five important teachings are non-violence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), non-stealing (Asteya), and Chasity (brahmacharya). He believed that no one is entirely correct and no one is also completely wrong. This shows his generosity and greatness.
- **Guru Nanak Dev:** (April 15, 1469- September 22- 1539) is the founder of Sikhism. He is the first of the ten Sikh gurus. He had faith in Omkar (one God) who dwells in every one of His creations and constitutes the eternal truth. He would set up a unique spiritual commercial and political platform which is based on virtue, goodness, fraternal love and equality. He is a heavenly messenger and born teacher. His teachings act as the lamp showing path where every political parties in India are tempting the voters on the basis of caste, creed and religion. His social institutions like langar, pangat and sangat are based on the principle of equality. Respect for women and gender equality is the most important to be learned from him. He considered the whole humanity as one family. Guru Nanak Dev emphasized the importance of Guru in one's life.
- **Gautama Buddha:** Gautama Buddha was born as Siddhartha Gautama in circa 563 BCE, in the royal family in Lumbini which is situated near the Indo-Nepal border. He is the founder of Buddhism. He spread Buddhism for around 45 years. After leading a life of mendicancy, asceticism and meditation, He obtained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, India. He thought a middle way between sensual indulgence and several asceticism, leading to NirVana. His teachings helped Buddhists to understand his preaching as- firstly life is suffering, secondly the cause for suffering is craving, thirdly the end of suffering comes with an end to craving and fourthly there is a pot which leads one a way from craving and sufferings. He preached that only sacrifice could not make a person happy and free from all the bonds he has in the world. His sermons are much relevant even today.

Thus, these all the ancient teachers, philosophers and thinkers in different era, have changed and shaped of ways of thinking by using different pedagogies. These old gems are able to produce more such teachers who can bring the much needed change in today's age and time.

### **Role of Teacher in Modern Age**

A nation lives when the teacher learns. The teachers are always working to built the basement of the students. The nation of tomorrow is created by a teacher. Teacher find outs the inner talent of the students and polish and perfect it. A teacher is the best mentor for the students. The modern education was introduced during the British Empire. Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay introduced the English Language with limited subjects and syllabus. After passage of time, education started to develop and entered into the modern era that is in the 21st century, the era of innovation, research, technology and social media. As per demand our education system or sector also needs to change. With the implementation of NEP 2020, we are trying to fulfil all the requirement of coming generations.

### **Objective of Modern Education**

The objective of modern education is to ingrain human values, culture, and tradition in the students to understand the culture as well as people of our country. The teacher student relations remained tremendous. But students do not live under the same roof together. Due to advancement of technology the education sector is also applying the trend of technology by teaching students through online lectures and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS). Women education is also given more importance. In the modern era projectors and computers are used to teach the students.

### **The Curriculum of Modern Education**

In the modern education era the whole curriculum of education is divided into primary, secondary and graduation. Primary education is from 1st to 10th , secondary education is 11th to 12th and in graduation students are given the choice to choose a field for further studies as Arts, Humanities, Science, Commerce, Electrical, Civil and so on. Along with studies different sports and extracurricular activities are also conducted in schools and colleges to keep students fit and for their comprehensive development. In modern education along with studies, the emphasis is given on extracurricular activities and sports for all round development of students.

### **Educational Institutions**

- **Schools:** Schools are the educational institutions where children are sent for their primary education. There are many private and government schools. Children at their early ages are sent to schools to learn poems, grammar, prayers along with subjects like English, Science, Mathematics, Geography, History as well as regional languages.
- **Colleges:** After completing primary education from schools, students are sent to colleges for secondary education. After primary education students are required to give entrance exams to take entry into colleges and according the entrance marks students are allotted colleges. College education consists of 11th and 12th standard. The students are taught subjects like Hindi, English, Physics, Chemistry Mathematics and so on as per their stream.
- **University:** After completing the secondary education students are required to give the entrance exams

like National Negligibility Test -Cum- Entrance Test (NEET), P.G. Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), Joint Admission Test for Masters (IITJAM), Common Law Administration Test (CLAT) and so on. Students are given choices to choose a stream like a computer, civil, electronics and mechanical to start their carrier. The university provides Under Graduate, Post Graduate course and Ph.D Degree etc.

- **Higher Education Institutions:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) , it is one of the greatest universities in India for higher education like Under Graduate, Post Graduate and several other streams. JEE-Mains and JEE Advance are the two entrance examinations to take admission in IIT, according the obtained marks. The other top universities are Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), National Institute of Technology (NIT), Indian Institute of Science (IISC). Many programs of Missions have started to increase the employment in India.

## CONCLUSION

In this way in the ancient era students were living with their teachers under the single roof and both students and teachers were fully supported by the sovereign authority (king). The emphasis was to develop character, human values, sense of honor and the duty within the students. In the modern era technologies and industries are increasing rapidly. The bond between teacher and taught is not as tight as in ancient era. In universities students are learning just for competing with each other to come first. They have no any such practical knowledge to lead a balanced life there is also a lot of pressure and burden of work and studies on them. Due to much burden students are committing suicide. Our education system needs to learn from ancient and medieval education system. In ancient time teachers were worshiped by the students and king both. The most aspirational New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is also emphasizes from affiliation to autonomy that must paves the way of privatization of education. Under N.E.P 2020, the government has promised that 6% of G.D.P will be spent towards education. This claims seems to be extremely Utopian. The current expenditure on education by the government is less than 1% of the GDP. At least 10% of GDP is essential to be on education. And it is the duty of Government to support for teachers, education and educational system by all means

“One book, one child, one pen and one teacher can change the world.”

-Malala Yousafzai

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